GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:548
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
BUILDING UP OF NAVAL WING BY LTTE
DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the building up of a Naval Wing - Sea Tigers by the LTTE;

(b) if so, the implications involved in the event of the Sea Tigers taking control in the Palk Bay; and

(c) the reaction of the Government with regard thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India & Sri Lanka control their respective sides of InternationalMaritime Boundary Line.Regular patrolling is undertaken by the ships of both the nations. In addition air surveillance sorties are also undertaken on a regular basis. With the Indian Navy units patrolling on the Indian side of International Maritime Boundary Line, probability of LTTE Sea Tigerstaking control in the Palk Bay does not exist.

(c) One country i.e. Sri Lanka cannot have two Navies.Therefore, India has conveyed its concerns to Sri Lanka. India maintains an abiding interest in the security of Sri Lanka and remains committed to its Sovereignty and territorial integrity.